

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott
Ellen Gavin
Marshall Johnson
LeRoy Koppendrayner
Phyllis A. Reha

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area
Service from the Crane Lake Exchange to the
Orr Exchange

ISSUE DATE: December 13, 2002

DOCKET NO. P-551, 407/CP-00-891

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS
AND REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Polling of telephone subscribers in the Crane Lake and Orr exchanges took place between August 21, and October 11, 2002.

On October 24, 2002, the Commission met to consider the polling results for the School District Extended Area Service (EAS) route proposed between the Crane Lake exchange and the Orr exchange.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

I. CERTIFICATION OF POLLING RESULTS: CRANE LAKE TO ORR SCHOOL DISTRICT EAS

The results of the polling show that a majority of voting subscribers in both the Crane Lake and Orr exchanges voted in favor of the Crane Lake/Orr School District EAS. The results were as follows:

Polling results for Crane Lake and Orr School District EAS

Voting Exchange	Petitioned Exchange(s)	Res. EAS Rate	Bus. EAS Rate	% Voting	Yes		No	
					#	%	#	%
Crane Lake	School District EAS	\$0.37	\$0.76	60.0	181	82.6	38	17.4
Orr	School District EAS	\$0.37	\$0.94	58.8	177	67.0	87	33.0

II. ORDER FOR INSTALLATION

Extended area service (EAS) is a service arrangement permitting neighboring telephone exchanges to become a single local calling area with toll-free calling. There are two kinds of EAS: standard EAS and School District EAS. The final criterion for School District EAS is that a majority of the subscribers in each exchange who return their EAS ballots must vote in favor of the proposed route. Because a majority of Crane Lake and Orr customers returning their ballots voted in favor of the proposed EAS route, the third and final criterion is met.

Accordingly, the Commission will direct the company serving the Crane Lake exchange, Citizens Telecommunications of Minnesota (Citizens), and the company serving the Orr exchange, CenturyTel of Minnesota, Inc. (CenturyTel) to implement the requested EAS route within 12 months of the date of this Order. To expedite and coordinate the implementation process, the Commission will order the companies to coordinate implementation of EAS and file a schedule of the planned implementation within 60 days of this Order. The companies will also be required to immediately file an explanation of the reasons for any subsequent change in that schedule.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Details regarding recovery of the non-recurring expenses caused by non-recurring costs of EAS balloting, further customer notices and the approval process for those notices, as well as tariff filing requirements, are addressed in the Ordering Paragraphs.

ORDER

1. The EAS route between the Crane Lake exchange and the Orr exchange is hereby approved. Citizens Telecommunications of Minnesota (Citizens), the company serving the Crane Lake exchange, and CenturyTel of Minnesota, Inc. (CenturyTel), the company serving the Orr exchange, shall implement the service within 12 months following the date of this Order.
2. The companies shall coordinate the implementation of EAS and shall file an implementation schedule within 60 days of the Order. If, for some reason, the implementation schedule changes, the companies should immediately notify the Commission and explain the reason(s) for the change(s).
3. The companies shall file the first of two proposed customer notices for approval by Commission staff within 10 days of the date of the Order. The notices shall list the results of the polling, the EAS additives and the proposed implementation date (s). After approval, the companies shall serve the notices in the first possible billing cycle in their respective exchanges.

4. The companies shall send final, Commission approved, notices to their customers in the Crane Lake and Orr exchanges, either by bill insert or separate mailing. The final notices shall describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional monthly rates, the date of implementation and any other pertinent information. The companies must issue these notices one month before they implement EAS.
5. The companies shall make any requests for recovery of non-recurring costs at least 120 days before the planned implementation dates. The Department shall have 30 days to comment on the proposed charges.
6. The companies shall file tariff sheets reflecting Commission Order establishing the rates and terms for EAS between Crane Lake and Orr. These tariff sheets shall be filed at least 30 days before implementation of EAS. Once this is done, this docket shall be closed.
7. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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